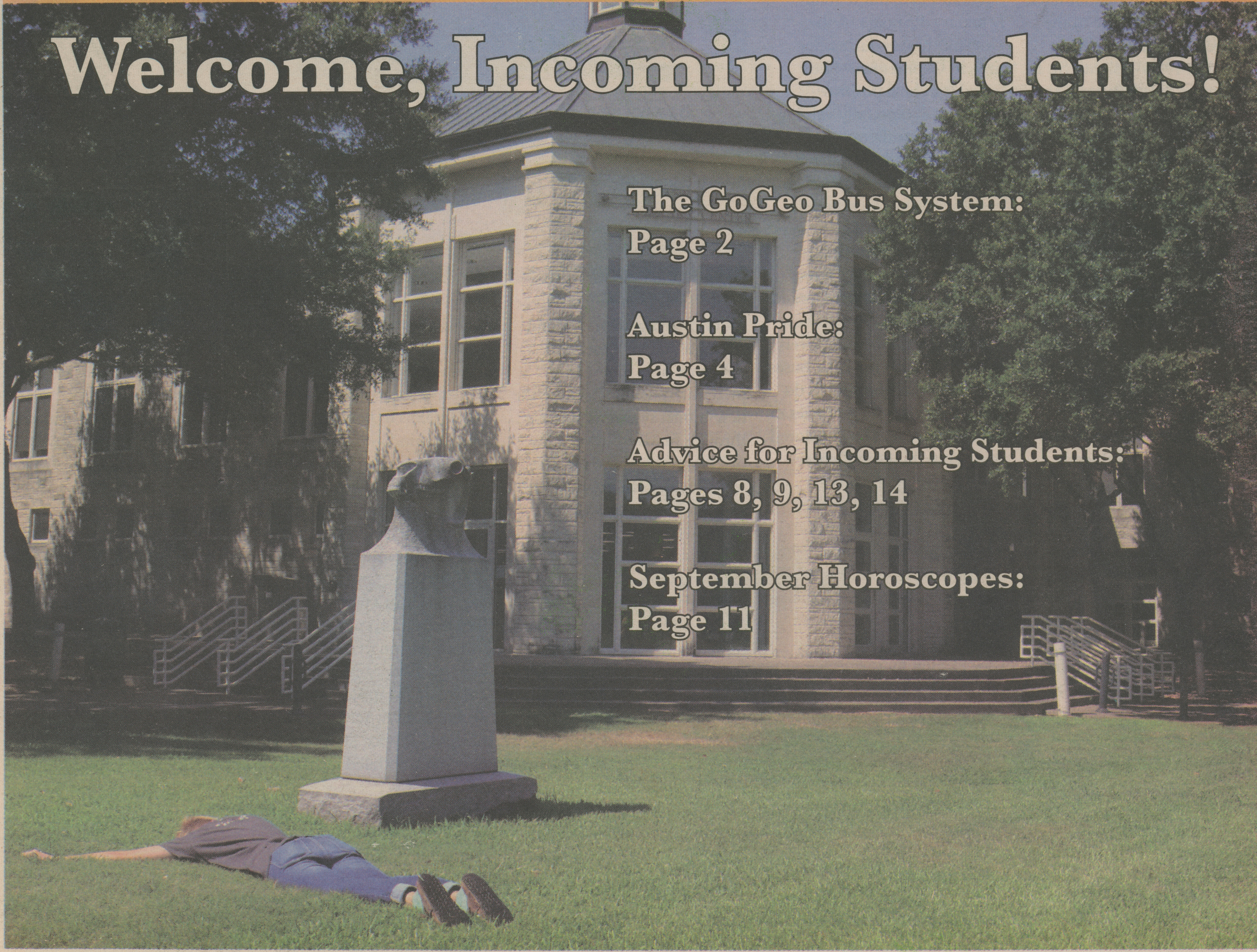
August 23, 2019

The Megaphone

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



Welcome, Incoming Students!

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GoGEO for Pirates: Are You Onboard?

By: **Meret Pavlina**

GoGeo
471
Library / Transfer Station

Photo by Natalie Young

GoGEO, Georgetown's inaugural fixed-city bus system, was launched two years ago on Aug. 21, 2017. The route offers regular service to several Georgetown hotspots, including Southwestern University itself, and consists of four fixed routes which converge at the Georgetown Public Library, located at 402 W. Eighth St. In addition to Southwestern, the routes serve Wolf Ranch, City Lights Theatres, Georgetown Recreation Center, Lonestar Circle of Care, the Rivery, and a variety of apartment complexes in central Georgetown. The new routes replaced the Capital Area Rural Transportation System, also known as CARTS, which was previously Georgetown's only option for public transportation.

Although GoGEO has been running for more than two years, both Southwestern students and the wider Georgetown community still aren't using the service at expected rates. According to ridership data from the month's following the service's establishment, the routes did see approximately a 50 percent increase in ridership from its predecessor, the CARTS system. Whether this increase can be attributed to general enthusiasm for public transit, or to the bus offering rides for no cost for the first two weeks of service is anyone's guess. Despite the rise in ridership, GoGEO's performance data for their Georgetown fixed routes was below target during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The system's four routes averaged a little over 3 passengers per revenue hour, well below the city's target of 6 passengers per revenue hour, according to data.

Megan McDonough, currently a sophomore at Southwestern, has regularly taken advantage of the GoGEO routes during her time in Georgetown. She found it to be a positive experience, especially valuing the feature on the website which keeps riders updated on real-time bus locations, in case they aren't on schedule for some reason. "The drivers are really nice to students," McDonough recalls. "Every time I've ridden, they've asked me about my major and how I'm liking school, and it's very sweet. The timing of the buses is great if you're trying to do some shopping for groceries or other things, and I've explored some cool things in Georgetown by riding the bus!"

Taking advantage of the bus service is a great option for Southwestern students for a variety of reasons. For one, this small adjustment of taking the bus can represent a significant step towards reducing your carbon footprint. For another, it's extremely affordable. For Southwestern University students, faculty, and staff with a functioning Pirate Card, the fares are free. However for Georgetown residents, one-way fares are $1, and an unlimited pass to ride for the day is only $2, so riding with GoGEO is a smart choice for anyone on a student budget, especially if they don't have a car of their own or want to get around Georgetown without splurging on an expensive rideshare app. These low prices are possible because the new transit system is paid for through funds from the City of Georgetown, the Georgetown Health Foundation, and Capital Metro, in addition to revenue from rider fares. Another strong argument for using GoGEO is the fact that the four limited routes function more efficiently than most city routes, operating on-time and on-schedule approximately 95 percent of the times according to the city's performance reports. In addition, every rider on existing public transit routes increases the likelihood of similar eco-friendly projects getting greenlit, both in Georgetown and farther afield. According to a city staff report, because ridership hasn't risen to the volume initially expected, the city is working again with GoGEO co-developer Capital Metro, the transit authority for the Austin area, in order to conceive promotion and outreach plans to boost ridership. Disabled individuals who wish to ride with GoGEO are offered driver assistance and reserved accessible seating on the regular bus route. If this will not suit your accessibility needs, you can apply for American's with Disabilities Act paratransit service through through the GoGEO website. Paratransit rides are made by appointment, available anywhere within the GoGEO service area, and must be scheduled a day in advance.

If you want to ride with GoGEO, you can buy one-way or day-long passes on the bus with cash, or with credit at the information desk inside Georgetown Public Library. Services run all weekdays 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays 8 a.m. to 6 p.m, except on holidays. You can board at any of the bus stops ranged throughout the service area. For more information about bus route maps, schedules, fares, and paratransit services offered through GoGEO, visit their website.

https://gogeo.georgetown.org/

Safe Space Available for LGBT+ Students through Lavender Spaces

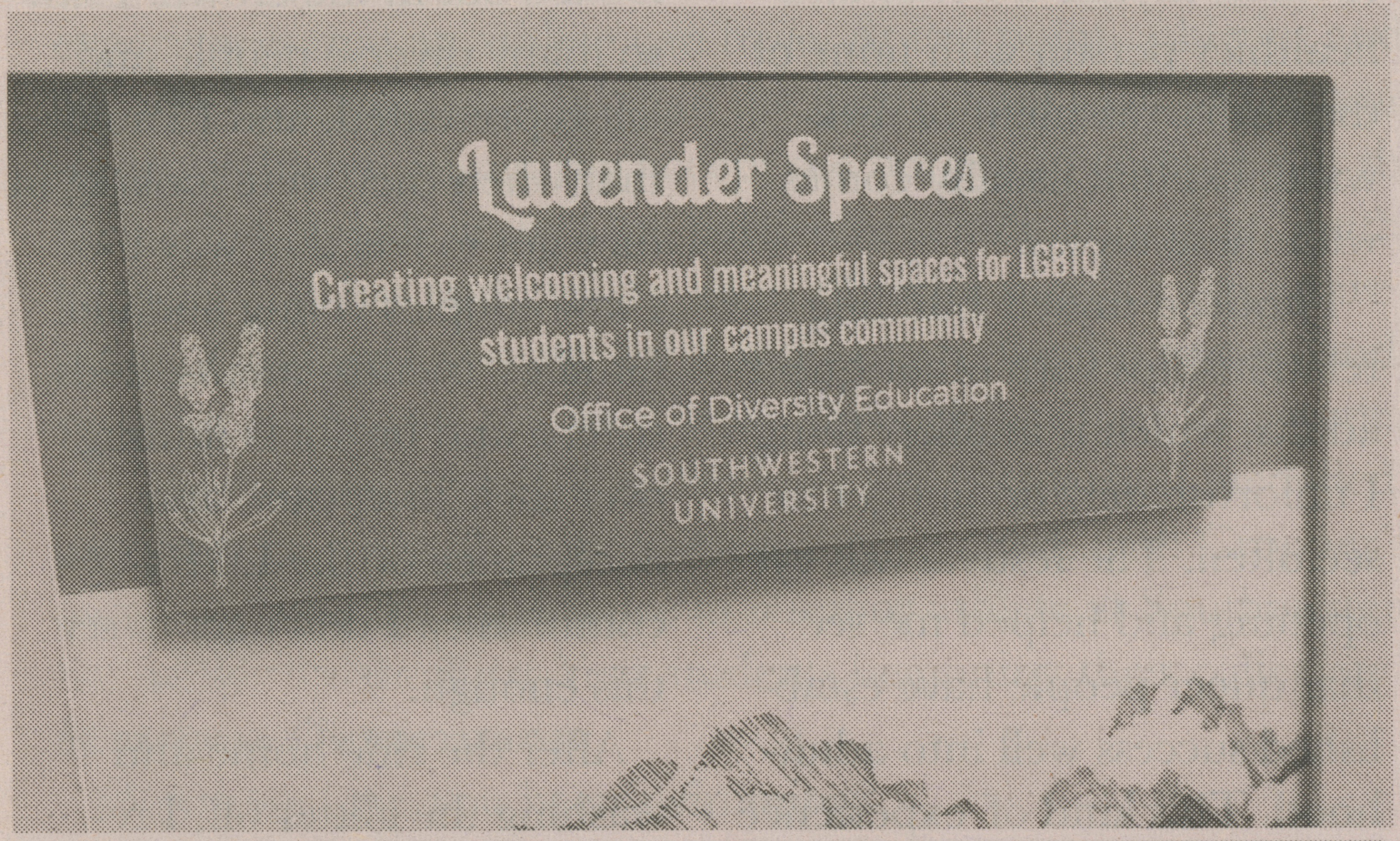
Lavender Spaces
Creating welcoming and meaningful spaces for LGBTQ students in our campus community
Office of Diversity Education
SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Photo by Aiden Steinle

By: **Claire Misfeldt**

Lavender Spaces is a Southwestern program designed to create safe spaces for LGBT+ students on campus. Participants who are certified in this program have a bookmark that they hang on their office door signaling that an LGBT+ student can go to them for guidance.

To become certified, a participant would have to attend an hour and a half to two hour training session. These sessions includes real world scenarios that LGBT+ students might face and gives advice on how to help the student in that situation. It also informs participants of potentially dangerous situations that LGBT+ students might find themselves in.

Kayla Ingram, senior, Lavender Spaces Coordinator, and president of Pirates for Pride, discusses the components of the training session.

"The training provides real world tools for real world situations relevant to the individual's position at Southwestern, as well as basic information about the LGBT+ community and a safe confidential place for questions and concerns," said Ingram.

Dianna Truumees, junior, Lavender Spaces Coordinator, and Student Director in the Office of Diversity Education, also discusses the details of the training program.

"Lavender Spaces is partially a training program for students, staff, and faculty to learn more about terminology related to LGBTQ experiences and identities, history related to these communities, and a place to ask questions and build an understanding of how these issues impact students at Southwestern," said Truumees.

Anyone in the Southwestern community, including faculty, staff, and students are welcomed to attend a training session. Ingram also spoke about expanding the program to include the larger Georgetown community in the future.

A list will be available in the future on the Southwestern website to let students know which staff members are certified.

The program is also a gateway for other LGBT+ events on campus like the Lavender Graduation, which Ingram and Truumees are both coordinators for. The Lavender Graduation is a ceremony for graduating LGBT+ seniors that allows them to reflect on their time on campus.

"Through the building of this knowledge and compassion," said Truumees. "We are able to build Lavender Spaces on campus, and host events for LGBTQ students, staff, and faculty to come together to discuss our experiences on campus and in the world at large"

While there is no official date for the first Lavender Spaces Training, there are still other events for LGBT+ students to attend. Be on the lookout for Pirates for Pride at the Student Involvement Fair in the upcoming weeks for more information. The Coalition for Diversity and Social Justice is holding a retreat on September 7 from 9am-2pm in the Howry Center.

"For new LGBT+ students, have fun, be safe, and know that this campus has resources and people who will advocate for you, reach out if you need help," said Ingram.

The Office of Student Life

By: **Claire Misfeldt**

The Office of Student Life is a great resource for incoming students to use. It is a center for many student organizations to have officer meetings and meeting with their advisors. They also help with club advertising by letting organizations paint banners to hang in the Bishop's Lounge.

According to the Southwestern Handbook, the Office of Student life emcompasses all areas where a student might be interested, from clubs and Greek life to on-campus jobs and career services.

On page one of the student handbook, it states that "the Division of Student Life includes career services, counseling and health services, dean of students, diversity education, mosaic, intercollegiate athletics, intramural and recreational activities, residence life, spiritual and religious life, student activities, and the University police department."

The Office of Student Life is also connected to The Cove, an on-campus restaurant for students to study or hang out with friends. Events like Friday Night Live and Cinematic Saturday are held there.

Derek Timourian, the Associate Dean of Student Life, wants incoming students to try a variety of organizations available through the office of student life.

"My advice would be for students to plan to participate in organizations/programs that they've enjoyed previously while also exploring, learning about and/or participating in new organizations/programs that are unique to SU and/or the collegiate experience," said Timourian.

2019-2020 Megaphone Editors

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Opinion: Austin Pride - The Experience for a Queer Afro-Latina

YOUR TRUE COLORS ARE BEAUTIFUL
RAMOUNT

Photo by Aly Cerda

By: **Aly Cerda**

As a Queer Afro-Latina, there are very few spaces I can feel welcomed, at home, or that I can call my own. Because of this, I've become extra aware of the spaces I spend my time in: what kind of demographic am I around; what kind of support that is offered; whether there are other adults I can turn to; and lastly, is my health a priority? These questions are always circling my mind. At Austin's Pride Festival and Parade these questions were still in my head, but had different answers than I'm used to.

Pride is separated into two events: the festival and the parade. The festival is during the daytime and features live performances, food, drinks, free swag, and even rides. In the evening people either line up along fences bordering the streets of downtown Austin, or instead of just watching, they join along with companies and organizations that participate in the parade.

Going into the festival I was greeted by volunteers who gave us wristbands and wished us fun. I walked inside and heard Christina Aguilera's "Beautiful" playing, and then witnessed a drag queen performing in the spotlight, lip syncing and all. The energy of the crowd was amazing, and I saw people who looked liked me each time I turned my head. I felt a different, exciting level of comfort with my identity. After watching a couple more performances I decided to make my way to a few different booths. There was art made by queer people, books focusing around gender identity, and shirts that proudly stated sexualities. I had never been around so much positive media focused on the LGBTQ+ community.

Continuing on, I visited various booths and talked to many different advocates who explained why their company or organization was involved with Pride. It was then I realized this event was for me and people like me. I received advice on how to finance my college experience, what it looks like to take control of my sexual health, and how to prioritize my mental wellbeing. I was offered resources to make myself a better and healthier person with none of the embarrassment or awkwardness that usually comes with these topics.

I noticed myself building relationships with other queer adults, which is another thing I unfortunately do not get to see often. The festival was eye opening and helped me see that queer people have established success well into adulthood. This kind of experience helped me develop a sort of security within my identity—a security, before that day, I realized I didn't have.

After lots of walking and gallons of water, I was on my way to the parade where I would be walking alongside my friend and partner with his university. With the sky dark and floats lit up, I got to see the beauty of my community. We are truly a beautiful bunch. The walk began slow, and I had a few interactions with the crowd in addition to handing out pride flags and necklaces.

The farther we walked the more connected I felt with the crowd. I remember specifically a group of people waving their transgender pride flag extra hard, noticing that we had one too. I rushed up to them to hand out candy and I felt my heart warm. Other people offered hugs, called out affectionate sayings, and honesty just hyped me up. It was warm, and it felt welcoming. More welcoming than most other environments I've been in.

The important part was that I got to see myself when I looked out in the crowd. I saw so many diverse people and felt represented, and I know that when they were looking in they got to feel that way too. I saw couples young and old, families, friends, moms, dads, sisters, and brothers uniting over their love, care, and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community. I don't get to see this enough.

After the ride home and washing the glitter off, I realized my day was in a space where I was represented in the demographic around me. I was offered many different types of support, there were adults I could turn to, and my health was a priority. Thats is not something I get to say everyday, or even most days. Austin Pride 2019 was nothing short of beautiful, and it helped me and many others feel the acceptance we forget we deserve.

The Megaphone is an affirming student organization welcoming individuals of all backgrounds and identities. Our goal is to foster a platform of expression that is open to all. Opinions expressed by our writers do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Megaphone or of Southwestern University. If you are interested in contributing to our opinions section or becoming a part of our staff, please contact the EIC.

Opinion: The Handy-Dandy Student Handbook

By: **Vivienne Miller**

Welcome to the beginning of Fall'19 at Southwestern! Wave good-bye to your summer vacation with the following words of wisdom: "To truly cherish the things that are important to you, you must first discard those that have outlived their purpose." — Marie Kondō

Break time is over, and it's time to get back to our studies. As peers, together we share this space while we pursue our educational endeavors. As students, we must honor the time, money, and unknown trials and triumphs of all community members in order to create an academic environment that will foster our growth. As members of the Southwestern community, we are dedicated to becoming engaged citizens of the world.

In other words, most if not all of my resources go to this school, and I want to have faith that my fellow peers take my education as seriously as I take all education. During orientation week we get the expectations, rules, resources, and policies presented to us in thoughtful depth. Yet, to quote Gorillaz, "I switched my robot off; and I know more but retain less." Because I am no part robot (yet), I am grateful that the Student Handbook exists to be referred to any time I need to remember what exactly I agreed to when I enrolled as a student here.

Check out the Southwestern University's Institutional Mission Statement: "Southwestern University, under the auspices of the United Methodist Church, is committed to undergraduate liberal education involving both the study of and participation in significant aspects of our cultural heritage, expressed primarily through the arts, the sciences, the institutions and the professions of society. As a teaching-learning community, Southwestern encourages rigorous inquiry and scholarship, creative teaching and the expression of free human life. The University seeks to involve the student in finding a personal and social direction for life, developing more sensitive methods of communication, cultivating those qualities and skills which make for personal and professional effectiveness, and learning to think clearly and make relevant judgments and discriminations."

This mission statement is saying a lot, and even though it's important enough to be on the front page of the student handbook, I admit that it's a lot to remember on a daily basis. But I'll try my best to rephrase: You go to a school with a long history, you should probably be aware of how that plays into the culture here. We learn and teach in our fields of study, and also in our relationships with each other. We all have to fight for everyone's right to free thinking and encourage unique thought. Know your identity in society so you can understand how your actions interact with your community members'. Do the work to create an academic culture with healthy language building healthy relationships.

In addition to my consideration of the handbook, I also reached out to the Dean of Students, Shelley Story, for her thoughts on how the student handbook can be effectively accessed. The following highlights her insightful considerations of SU's handbook:

"The whole document is really important, and I think your final statement that "the handbook is something reliable all students can consult whenever to remind themselves of the commitment we all make to each other as Southwestern students" is right on track.

I think, ultimately, although the handbook spells out lots of specifics... its overall purpose is to describe and define the kind of community we want to be. Of course it's important for students to know and respect university policy, but since we spend considerable time discussing those during welcome week and through the residence halls, I thought it might be helpful to point to other parts of the handbook that may be overlooked.

The first three pages lay out the mission statement, core purpose and values, the Honor Code, and a welcome letter from Vice President Woody that sets the tone for new students entering into this university community. Together, I think those pages demonstrate what the handbook is generally intended to convey.

It's a pretty straightforward exercise to find specific policies and procedures in the handbook. They are listed alphabetically by category in the table of contents. So, if a student wants to know if a specific behavior is prohibited, or what sanctions may be imposed for violating university policy, it's easy to find that out. I think what might be "new" information to some students (either they haven't heard it, or it's been a long time) is the content in the first thirty pages or so. Here the handbook provides a "30,000-foot" view of the university, including information about the governance structure itself and about many offices, departments, and services. Reading this section might help students understand how the many different parts of the university are both distinct and interconnected; it also may make students aware of services or resources they had forgotten or hadn't known of. Similarly, the section on Academic Policies and Information beginning on page 106 provides a high-level overview of the structure of the academic realm, including academic rights for students."

Long story short, everything we need to know about the expectations we agreed to as SU students is in that book. Honestly, this whole article is just to say that there is no excuse for any SU student to not know the expectations we all hold for each other. We are navigating through an institution—a historically private white institution (PWI)—and this has implications in our daily lives here, like all institutions do.

With a student body as small as ours, it's easy to hide away within the comfort of our friend group. Or, if you're anything like me, the temptation to only show up for classes and clubs before isolating myself in the safety of my bedroom is difficult to deny. But my classes aren't online classes; they are with my fellow students. So, when I show up to class, I want to trust that those around me are honoring my time, money, and willingness to not get a degree online. Again, this is easier said than done. I know I have a bad habit of running late, procrastinating, forgetting class materials, or even daydreaming in the middle of a lecture. But I don't want to condemn myself, or continuously ask those around me to forgive my shortcomings, so the only thing left to do is change my behavior, so they appropriately reflect my respect for SU and all of its members.

We are here to learn, so I'm going to learn. And sometimes to learn I have to unlearn. Southwestern challenges me to become a better writer, student, journalist, active citizen, and peer because that's what I am paying this school to do. I promise to be mindful of the school's values because that is a part of being a part of this school. And even though it is called the Student Handbook it is not just for students, but for all faculty and staff as well. Our handbook is what we all can easily refer to when we find ourselves having to hold each other accountable. Kind of like the legal system put in place by the government of our society.

TLDR; Know your rights, know what is expected of you, and together we can work to create, uphold, and amend the elements that go into creating the best learning environment we all expect from Southwestern University.

I'll end with a quote from the worst pirate you have ever heard of: "The problem is not the problem. The problem is your attitude about the problem." — Captain Jack Sparrow

Editor's Choice

Georgetown has lots of choices when it comes to restaurants - sometimes it can be difficult to choose, so I've collected my favorites for each genre of food. This is by no means a definitive list of the bestaurants, but just some of the ones I really enjoy. While I'm sure everyone is familiar with Sodexo and the on-campus dining options, I've decided to leave those out… It's good to get off campus every once in a while!

Aiden Steinle, Editor-in-Chief

Best Coffee Spot: ***309 Coffee***

Starting with something easy: 309 Coffee is a new, locally owned coffee shop that has a fun weekly trivia night. Stop in for the free wifi, enjoy the cold brew, bring your friends. A good study spot too.

Best Fast Food: ***Wendy's***

This is a contentious category, and my favorite changes based on the day. That being said, it's hard to beat the 4-4-4. Pay the extra $0.30 for the lemonade to ascend to the next tier.

Best Burgers: ***Burger University***

Being one of the only burger places in town, this gimmicky spot delivers with their greasy goodness. Onion rings are great, but the melted cheese pump is amazing (and complimentary).

Best Pizza: ***600 Degrees Pizza***

As a very popular spot for students and Georgetown residents alike, it gets rather crowded most evenings. You can get giant slices for $5 and they have an extensive beer selection. Plus, it's within walking distance of campus.

Best Breakfast Tacos: ***San Pedro Limon***

Cheap, authentic, and tasty - I grew up in San Antonio and I still love these tacos. They also have a full menu, but I haven't ever felt the need to get anything other than breakfast tacos.

Best Spot to take Your Parents: ***Monument Cafe***

An adequate brunch spot that parents love more than anything else. It's usually full of old people from Sun City. Don't miss the migas, but don't go without your parents - it's not cheap.

Best Late Night Spot: ***Whataburger***

A Texas classic. To be fair, basically everything else is closed past 1. In case you don't know, the 11pm convoy from the Mabee lot to pick up Honey Butter Chicken Biscuits is an unofficial Southwestern tradition.

Best Date Spot: ***El Monumento***

On the upper end of a college student's price range, "El Mon" is a popular spot for celebrations (or a night with that special someone). The limited menu makes choices easier, but you can get better margs elsewhere.

Best Asian Food: ***Jaiwai Thai Kitchen***

Pretty good Thai food just off the square. There's lots of variety, too, so you'll want to make a return trip. No sushi, though, so go elsewhere for that.

Best Mexican Food: ***Dos Salsas***

Some of the best chips, salsa (two, obviously), and margs in town. It's worth a trip for those alone, but the generous portions and reasonable prices make this one of my favorites.

Best Breakfast Food: ***Kerbey Lane***

So the nearest Kerbey Lane is in Round Rock, but it's worth the drive. This Austin classic has lots of fun options for breakfast food as well as a regular menu. This location is open 24 hours, and the Kerbey Queso is legendary.

Best Overall: ***Blue Corn Harvest***

My favorite restaurant! The space is a little cramped, but they're currently working on expanding. Their ingredients are locally sourced so you can feel better about that. The menus change frequently, so there's always something new. Also, their cocktails are amazing. Go during happy hour for half-priced appetizers.

What Your RA Probably Wants You to Know

By: **A Former RA**

Being an RA is a pretty tough job, but everyone who applies for the position is doing it because they care about other students. I remember when I applied for the job, I was so nervous about my interview. We are required to present an idea for an event to host in the residence halls and mine was probably the cheesiest one they'd ever seen. We really want y'all to come to the events, by the way. We have a good budget and want to be able to use it all on fun stuff for you! We also put a lot of thought and planning into each event and when you show up, it shows us that you care about us and your neighbors. We really just want to get to know you and it may seem cheesy or forced but it comes from a real place. Like I said, we wouldn't have applied if we didn't genuinely care.

You can come to us with any problem and we will try our absolute hardest to solve it with you. We really want the best for you and when it may feel like you're alone in the sea of other students, your RA has your back, I promise.

Another thing, we would so, so rather you come back to your hall drunk than not at all. Please don't bring alcohol into the dorms, we really would rather not go through the ordeal of confiscating it. But if you come back drunk, just be polite and as quiet as you can, and we'll help you get to your room safely.

Please don't smoke in the dorms either- that's another pain in the butt. The fire alarms are more sensitive than you think and, once again, we'd like to not have to get you in trouble.

Finally, have fun! As my old bosses used to say, "We don't call them dorms, because you don't just sleep there." The lobbies are there for you to spend time in, make friends, talk to strangers, play games and take naps and at quiet hours, just try to keep it down. We know y'all are excited, I certainly remember those days, but some people are trying to sleep and we will have to tell you to be quiet. Just know, we aren't mad, just trying to keep the peace.

Photo by Vivienne Miller

Summer on an Artist Commune

By: **Kari Darr**

For artists, there's plenty of room for creativity when it comes to internships. I got to spend the second half of my summer living and working at what was basically an artist commune. I lived and worked at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in the mountains of Gatlinburg, Tennessee, which is a huge tourist town where everything is strangely bear-themed. It's like the Las Vegas of the South-- imagine The Mystery Shack from Gravity Falls times a thousand. The Strip is lined with over-the-top attractions like Ripley's, ski lifts, and shops selling tacky shirts. Contrasting with all the flashy consumerism, Arrowmont is hidden away only a few feet behind the shops. Just about everything there is handmade, down to the mugs and napkin-holders in the dining hall. It's like a little bubble of artists and hippies surrounded by confederate paraphernalia marketed to Southern tourists.

Arrowmont is a strange island that seems to exist outside of this reality. Time runs differently there, where every day is a work day and every night is a weekend. Each day was essentially What's Up by 4 Non Blondes playing on loop. I'm convinced Gatlinburg has some kind of Bermuda Triangle energy running through it. We had bonfires and karaoke every week and went swimming in a stream in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to revive ourselves from the exhaustion of working. It was easy to forget about the outside world while on campus except for the ski lift that ran directly over my dorm. The Sky People on the lift would constantly drop things and yell at us, and I felt like I was in a human zoo of artists on display in our natural habitat.

I never went to camp as a kid, so Arrowmont felt like my one and only art camp experience. I was one of 20 work-studies working together in the last 6 weeks of the summer. I worked full-time in the kitchen for 3 weeks and part-time during class weeks. Arrowmont's work-study is an unpaid program, so it was very helpful that my travel expenses were covered by Southwestern's internship funding program. In exchange for work, I got free meals, housing, and tuition for 3 art workshops. I took classes in figure sculpting, pottery, and embroidery to expand my skill set as I learned how to work in food service. Working in the kitchen was stressful at times, but we also had a lot of fun jamming out to our summer playlist while washing dishes. The kitchen crew and the rest of the work studies quickly became a close family as we spent every meal together and put up with a lot of shenanigans.

I learned a lot of valuable things in my workshops and enjoyed escaping the Texas heat in the mountains. I'll be able to use what I learned in the studios as I work on my senior show this year. But the most valuable thing I took away from my experience was all the connections and friendships I made while I was there. Networking is essential for all professions, especially in the art world. I now have lots of artist friends around the country and we will all continue to support each other's work with trades and future collabs. I'm gonna miss living and working with them every day, and goodbyes were the hardest part of the work-study experience. I strongly encourage artists working in any media to look for work exchange programs at arts and crafts schools to boost your resume and join a strong network of fellow artists. Arrowmont was truly unforgettable and I'm sure I'll return one day as I continue traveling to other artist havens around the country.

WELCOME
ARROWMONT

Photo by Kari Darr

The Annual Student Art Exhibition

By: **Jacob Jimerson**

Throughout the academic school year, Southwestern students work hard in over 15 art classes developing the technical skills, critical thinking, art historical knowledge, and original ideas important to being good artists. To celebrate their artistic successes, Southwestern University holds the Annual Student Exhibition held at the end of each year. The exhibit remains up during the summer for students to see when they return in the fall.

Curating the Student Exhibition begins by finding student artwork that showcases the skills of Southwestern students. In introductory classes or art electives, professors will choose several high quality works from different students to be in the exhibition. Some professors will approach students in person about work they'd like to submit, while others will go through student portfolios and select the best works, notifying students at a later date. Students in advanced classes select which of their own works they would like to show in part because they have the experience and knowledge to make informed decisions. This also allows them to practice selecting which works they want to submit to exhibitions and shows beyond Southwestern.

Once the artwork is chosen and carried to the Fine Arts Gallery, Seth Daulton, the Technical Assistant and Exhibitions Coordinator for the Sarofim School of Fine Arts, goes through the massive undertaking of installing the art and creating title cards for each piece. Given that there can roughly be eight to twelve pieces from each art class, Mr. Daulton's task is no small feat. Thankfully, he is assisted by students in the Exhibition Practicum class. This class, typically taken by studio art majors in their final semester, teaches students how to layout and install artwork within a gallery space. It is thus fitting, and a bit poetic, that one of their last jobs as an Southwestern art student is setting up the work of their friends, peers, and successors, welcoming in the next wave of talented Southwestern artists.

Thanks to the varied interests of Southwestern students, The Annual Student Exhibition always showcases a wide breadth of artistic style, ideas, and techniques. This year's exhibition includes a six foot tall black and white drawing of two paintbrushes in a graduated cylinder by Lauren Muskara, '20, a dramatic look at the intersection of art and science in her life. Computer Science major Alice Quintanilla, '20, also has work in the show; prints inspired by the ideas of permanence and transcendence which capture her interest in metaphysics and religion, a topic not often covered alongside algorithms and neural networks. Rising Sophomore Ila Dannelley's clay sculpture of a frog atop a lotus blossom is another notable work not only for its craftsmanship, but also for the sculpting and glazing that makes the sculpture look like an impressionist painting come to life.

In addition to these pieces, the Student Show has detailed architecture mockups, surreal bronze statues, handmade lidded vessels, captivating abstract paintings, and wooden sculptures which seem to defy gravity. Parents, though, should be aware that there are some nude portraits from the Drawing II and III classes. As a whole, the work in the show is beautiful, smart, and engaging. So if you're on campus on Tuesday through Sunday between the hours of 12:00 pm and 5:00 pm, check out the Annual Student Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery. There's something for everyone.

Opinion: Open Letter to First Year Students

By: **Mackenzie Spence**

Dear First-Years,

I know it's an exciting time of year for you guys. You made it past the hurdle of high school and are now on your way to being fully fledged adults. It can be intimidating, coming into a new environment with no idea of what to expect. Don't let it overwhelm you though. These are going to be the most free years of your adult life, take advantage of them. It's a wonderful chance to make new friends and maybe see how many of those rumors about college life is true.

There are some things that I wish I had known starting out, so here is my list of little wisdoms that should help you ease your way into college life:

- ***Go to events and mixers, this is the fastest way to meet new people.*** You're not going to be lame for participating and having a good time. In fact, going out and being involved is the fastest way to find people you vibe and connect with.
- ***Make friends with your RA, it will make dorm life so much easier.*** Residential Assistants are there to help you, that is literally their job. They know about what's what on campus, and are your most direct line of communication for help when you're not sure what to do.
- ***Join clubs and organizations on campus to branch out.*** Find something that you are passionate about or have always wanted to try. It's a chance for you to take a break from the monotony of classes and hang out with people who have similar interests as you.
- ***Sign up for the daily newsletter to stay informed about what is happening on campus.*** Postmaster isn't only about events on campus, it's also a good way to learn about new job postings or textbooks for sale. It is one of the best ways to stay abreast with all of the exciting happenings in Southwestern.
- ***Give the Commons a break every once in a while.*** Having the same meals every week can get a bit old. If you have dietary restrictions, even more so. If the cycle of rice and wilted greens with various meats/meat substitutes is getting a little repetitive, go out. The Cove is open late into the night and take out from the Square is always good.
- ***Conversely, don't burn all of your Pirate Bucs at the Cove.*** I know it is tempting to live off of the cheap and convenient fast food, but those expenses build up after a while. You won't even realize how much you've spent until you're trying to swipe your card at the laundry machines and realize you've maxed out your dollars.
- ***Take care of the Pirate Bikes and park them off of the sidewalk.*** The yellow bikes are a wonderful addition to our campus, and we want to keep them around as long as possible. That means taking care of the bikes and not just dumping them outside of the building on your way to class. It makes it an issue of accessibility for other students and faculty, and also runs the risk of wearing down the Pirate bikes faster. Please be conscientious when using these bikes.
- ***Find a study spot that isn't your bed and set up a schedule that works for you.*** I know how tempting it is to stay in bed to crunch out that paper on your laptop. Unfortunately, that really interferes with your productivity and your sleep cycle. Your bed is made to be slept in, and doing your homework there messes with your brain. It's better to find a place somewhere that you don't associate with sleep so you feel more awake and more productive.
- ***Get to know your professors, it can make all the difference in how you approach a class.*** A benefit of going to a small school like this is that you have the opportunity to really get to know your teachers. They are there to guide you, and getting to know them can make asking them for help in a class so much easier. They will also be more willing to help if you are the one to extend the hand first. Cherish your syllabus like it holds the secrets of the universe (because it does). I have known way too many people, myself included, who have been completely blindsided by an exam or paper because they forgot to check their syllabus. Your entire class outline is included in that sheaf of papers, including dates for exams, the curriculum schedule, and guidelines for your essays. If you have a question about the class, chances are the answer can be found in your syllabus.
- ***Don't skip class, no matter how tempting it is.*** Whether it is because you are tired from staying out too late the night before or are just not feeling that afternoon class, don't skip. Depending on the professor you have a limited number of days you are allowed to miss in a class before you are automatically dropped. Don't waste those days because you were too lazy to go. I don't mean to say you shouldn't take a day off for your mental health when you need it, but don't burn through your sick days because you don't feel like going to class.
- ***Take advantage of the lulls in work to get ahead of your assignments.*** There's going to be a period of time in the semester when it feels like there isn't a whole lot to do. Be wary of that period. It usually precedes an intense influx of work from all of your classes simultaneously that doesn't really end until the week before final exams. Use that break to get ahead of all your big projects, so that the final sprint at the end of the semester doesn't completely swamp you.
- ***Never go to parties alone.*** I know this makes me sound like an overprotective parent, but I mean it. Even if you can't convince someone to go with you, at least let someone you trust know where you are going. Things happen even despite the best of intentions, so it's better to know that you have someone to check on you and make sure you make it home alright.
- ***Take everything you hear from Mouthwestern with a grain of salt.*** Rumor mills are never meant to be trusted. Even if your friend guarantees that what they heard about that one person or what happened at this party is true, it really probably isn't the whole story. Don't make it worse for that person by spreading the story, because it probably isn't any of your business.
- ***Invest in a keychain flashlight for navigating campus at night.*** This might be a little random, but it's something that I invested in when I stopped carrying my phone everywhere with me on campus. It gets really dark on campus at night, especially with how spread out the street lights are. Make your walk back to the dorms a little safer by having a flashlight with you so you can see where you are going.

That's all in my list of advice for you all. There is just one last thing I want you to remember. Take everything in moderation. Find a balance between academics and social life. You are here to learn, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun either. The most important part is that you enjoy yourself.

Sincerely,
Your friend

Opinion: Open Letter to Transfer Students

By: **Vivienne Miller**

Dear incoming transfer/“non-traditional” students,

Welcome to Southwestern University. This open letter is intended to highlight the expectations and lifestyles that I, as a fellow transfer student, had to adapt to in order to become a successful student here. Consider reading it for in-depth applications of well-rounded advice for all incoming students.

“Non-traditional” students, though, face extra barriers that students coming straight from high school don’t necessarily have to consider. As transfer students, chances are that a lot of consideration went into applying and enrolling as a student here. Whether you are coming from another university in Texas, in the States, another country, or community college, you will soon notice the very particular and unique culture that is the campus community here at SU. Hopefully I can provide some insight on how things work around here.

I transferred here from Austin Community College where I was surrounded by students of all ages, nationalities, and economic classes. And the thing about community college is that it offers tracks of all kinds, not just a 4-year bachelor’s degree, and I had to take classes at multiple campuses across the greater Austin area. Access to academic resources and personal support looked very different compared to the way SU presents such guidance. Because SU is a private institution for undergraduates, the inner workings of the institution was almost completely foreign to me as a student coming from the endlessly diverse network of campuses that make up ACC. Below I lay out key points that might help you orient yourself to the way things work around here:

- ***Your AES professor should be your first guide to any and all questions you might have about the school.*** We spend a lot of time with them during our first semester at SU, and they want nothing more than to help you in any way they can. Take advantage of the lockers and Transfer Student lounge in Prothro. This is a space completely dedicated to us since we commute and need to store our lunches somewhere.
- ***The Financial Aid office should be your go-to campus resource regarding anything and everything money related.*** Make sure you are correctly listed as living with your family or living alone off-campus. This influences how the university correctly determines your financial standing. Also ask about any scholarships you might qualify for.
- ***Understand how your credits transferred over!*** This is very important since the credits from your last place of study determines how many semesters you have to complete at SU to meet degree requirements.
- ***Connect all of your devices to Pirate Link for on-campus wifi for the whole school-year.*** It took me about a month to figure out how to do this.
- ***Make friends with the AES students in your seminar and all the other ones.*** Even though everyone might be graduating at different times, other AES students can become a little family since y'all are all adapting to SU at the same time.
- ***Keep an eye out for extracurricular activities/organizations you are passionate about!*** SU is small, but there really is a place for everyone here. Even if you are on a fast track to graduating and getting the heck up out of here, it’s important to remember that Southwestern offers not only quality classes but also notable and esteemed student organizations.

That’s some straightforward advice about understanding how our institution works. Though, that’s not all I had to adapt to when I chose to come here. For my first semester here, I commuted every day from the southside of Austin. If you are doing this, find some podcasts or audiobooks that are relevant to your area of study if you need something to focus on when you’re making that excruciatingly repetitive commute.

If you are just moving to Williamson county for the first time, you might want to know a little bit about Georgetown itself. A historically red county (that just turned purple during our last midterms) is where Southwestern lives. Even though SU prides itself as a liberal arts university, Georgetown is still a place where homelessness is criminalized, confederate statues stir up controversy, and homes are going for $6.9 million dollars. If you live off-campus like me, and you work in addition to going to school, the cultural environment reinforced by city policy definitely influences how I live my life as I continue my studies. Also, as every engaged citizen in this political climate does, I choose not to ignore the flux of the cultural climates I put myself in. This is all to remind you of our positionality as students at SU in Georgetown, Texas.

This brings me to the final question I just could not hack when I first came to SU: Where in this tiny town can I find the perfect study spot? I am still searching for this answer.

Imagine you had a long day at school. It’s late at night and you don’t know how safe or worth it it is to drive all the way home just to come back to school 5 hours later to make it to your 8am class. My solution was to spend sleepless nights studying in our 24/hr library, and, unfortunately, that is really the only space available. There is literally no 24/hr anything in Georgetown. That was probably the biggest thing I had to get used to, since I was used to hopping from 24/hr cafe to the next when I was studying at ACC. 309 is a groovy place to study, but they close at 10pm (4pm on Sundays), and since it’s a kid-friendly place that sells alcohol, you never really know what kind of vibe to expect when you go in.

It’s probably because I am coming from such a different environment of learning compared to SU, but it has been difficult to find my place here. Even though I work to find community on and off campus here in Georgetown, I still miss ACC sometimes. I miss my home, my family and friends, and I really miss the 24/hr coffee shops. And I think that’s normal. There are resources, support, guidance, and belonging here at Southwestern—you just have to intentionally look for it. This school is full of growth, passion, and sheer excellency, and as transfer and “non-traditional” students, we make this school that much better by being here. Our perspectives that diverge from the mainstream lifestyles of the SU student body is valued and represents the diversity this school cultivates. We are all here together, and even though we have homes in other places and other campuses, we belong here.

Best wishes,
A friend

Up & Coming in Georgetown

By: **Mackenzie Spence**

Welcome Pirates to another new school year! While you have been enjoying your summer break, Georgetown has been undergoing some exciting new changes.

HelloGeorgetown.com, the community blog, has recently released several new articles detailing the new eateries and shopping centers that are coming soon to our town. With all of this new business, Georgetown definitely has earned its title as the 7th fastest growing city in the United States.

Georgetown Square
University Ave & Main St

- Lark and Owl
Now open
A locally owned and operated bookstore and bistro, located next to Monument Cafe.

- Barrels and Amps
August 2019
A new bar and event space with rooftop bar located next to the Williamson County Museum.

- 600 Degrees Market
Summer 2019
An expanded dining space for award-winning 600 Degrees pizza, located across from Galaxy Bakery.

- Lamppost Coffee
Grand opening August 20th
A second location for Round Rock favorite, located on Main Street.

- Lone Star Kolaches
August 2019
A new bakery to open at the former location of Golden Chick.

- 18 Carrot Bakery
Now open
A new bakery located on the Georgetown Square that offers delicious dessert and make-and-take pasta classes.

Wolf Ranch Town Center
University Ave & Simon Rd

- Just Love Coffee Cafe
Now open
A Christian based cafe that focuses on serving the local community.

- Ulta Beauty
Grand opening August 23rd-25th
A new Georgetown location for the popular beauty chain.

- Mod Pizza
September 2019
A new Georgetown location for a create-your-own pizza place.

Wolf Crossing
Late 2019
Hwy 29 & IH-35

- Olive Garden
A new Georgetown location for the Italian family restaurant chain.

- Willie's Grill and Ice House
A new Georgetown location for the Houston based burger chain.

- Goodwill
A second Georgetown location for the donation center.

- Menchies Frozen Yogurt
A new Georgetown location for the frozen yogurt chain.

- Tiff's Treats
A new Georgetown location for the Austin based bakery and cookie delivery chain.

- Mama Fu's
Asian fusion restaurant that has moved to a new location.

- Austin's Pizza
A new Georgetown location of the pizza chain restaurant.

- Mahana Fresh
A new Georgetown location of the Florida based food chain.

Bluebonnet Plaza
TBD
Hwy 29 & Wolf Ranch Pkwy

- Academy Sports & Outdoors
October 7
A new Georgetown location for the Texas owned and operated sporting goods store.

Miscellaneous

- Kyoto Sushi and Steak Asian Cuisine
Now open
A new sushi bar and hibachi kitchen located across from the Wendy's on Rivery Blvd

- 2020 Market
Early 2020
A new locally sourced, farm to market restaurant and bar located in the Summit at Rivery Park.

- HTeaO
September 2019
A new Georgetown location for the Texas based iced tea franchise.

Photo by Aiden Steinle

Ins and Outs: The Best Spots on Campus

Photo by Natalie Young

By: **Aly Cerda**

As a new school year approaches it is good to get (re)acquainted with campus. Between the many areas of Southwestern University, some have become the favorites and most special places for students.

"The library is probably my favorite spot on campus," Caylee Brockman said. "It's really nice to have a place to go where you can get whatever you need done peacefully." The library is a great academic space with multiple levels and a variety of study rooms. Events are often hosted here, like Long Night Against Procrastination, and the staff offers free treats occasionally while also having a cafe inside.

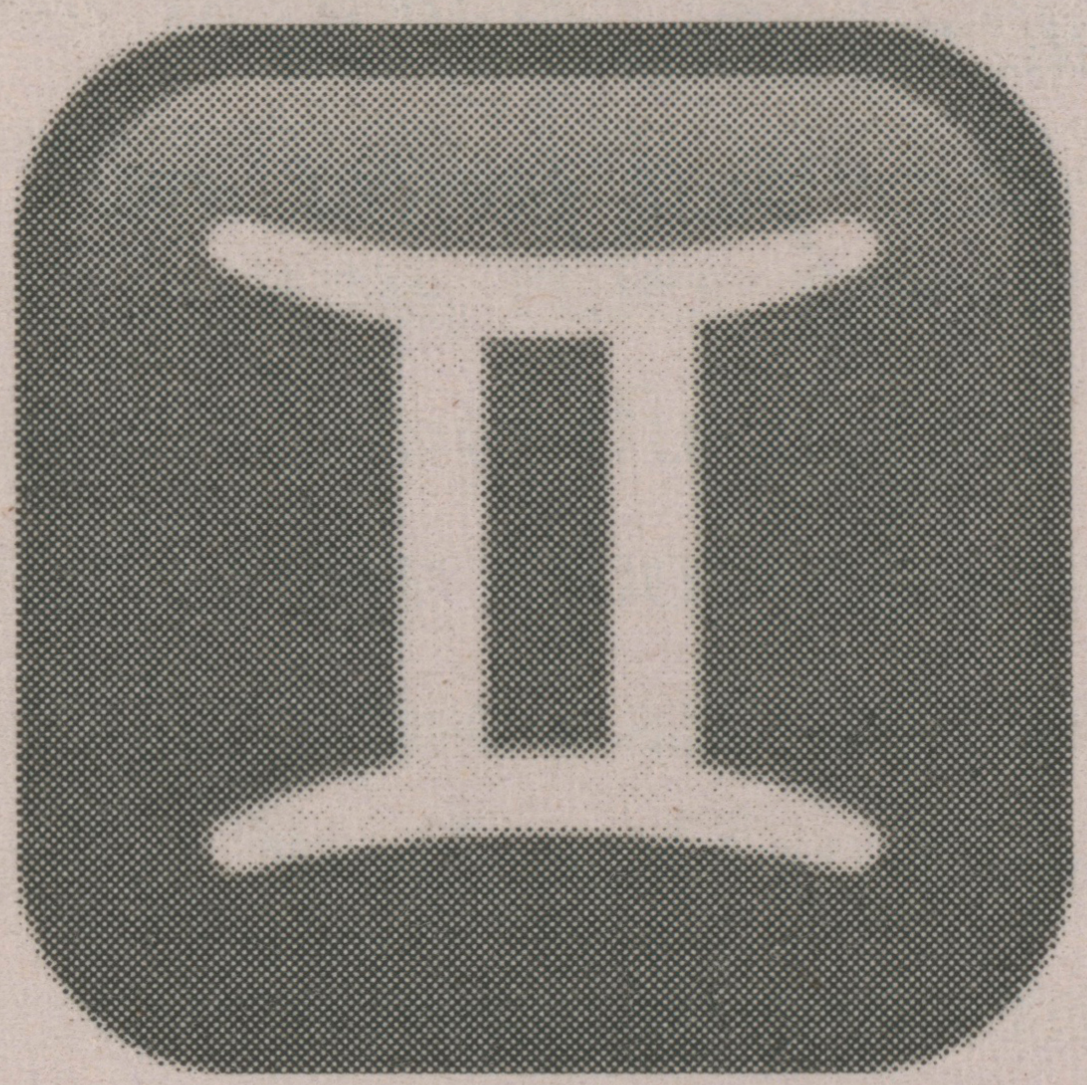
"Brown Cody floor two," Kathryn Rorer said alongside friends Patience Lopez and Erin Flessner. "BC has given me by best friends here at SU." The dorms are where some of your strongest relationships will begin and flourish.

"I have two favorite places," Kristine Velez said. "The Cove is a fun place to just hang out with your friends." The Cove is the campus cafe. There is a variety of food and beverages to pick from including a Starbucks menu. There are events hosted in The Cove including live music, comedy shows, and more. "My favorite place is [also] the SU Garden at night," continued Velez. "It's a peaceful place to get away from everything and look up at the stars. A group of friends and I went over there and sat talking for hours one night."

The Southwestern campus has many places to make students feel happy, comfortable, and at home. Take some time this semester to walk around and get to truly know campus.

SEPTEMBER 2019 ASTROLOGY AND HOROSCOPES

BY ALICE



Thank you for checking out The Megaphone's all-new astrology column! The stars are performing an extravagant parade for us. They sing and they dance and sometimes they trip and embarrass themselves. For as long as humankind has had eyes to see, we have looked up in awe and whispered "mood."

Major astrological events this month include the end of Saturn retrograde, which promises a return to stability. We also can look forward to the ingress of multiple lovely little planets into Libra. Beautiful Venus is coming home, and she brought her friends. They haven't noticed that you're also home right now, in the other room, happening to overhear... Are they talking about you?

And now, a horoscope for your sign! in addition to your sun sign (the one based on your birthday), you may find It helpful to also read the prediction for your moon sign, ascendant, or another sign that features prominently in your chart. Take it with a grain of salt—without knowing all your placements and all their degrees, this is an approximation of the energies to come.

*Note: dates may vary from year to year.

Aries (*Mar 21 – Apr 19*)*
The truth will come out whether you want it to or not. If you have nothing to hide, you are in luck!

Taurus (*Apr 20-May 20*)*
This month may not be particularly interesting. If you happen to have issues with a loved one, give them some space, then talk it out. They trust you as much as you trust them.

Gemini (*May 21-June 20*)*
Around the third week of September, trust your instinct to get rid of something(?) You will know what it is, but till then, Your guess is as good as mine, Gemini! Probably better!!!

Cancer (*Jun 21-Jul 22*)*
This month may be somewhat challenging for you. Give yourself a rest from worrying about the past or the future; try to follow through with plans, but if they fall apart, let them go.

Leo (*Jul 23-Aug 22*)*
You may feel a bout of good energy—if so, ride it out for as long as you can! not that anything bad will happen otherwise—just cause it'll be nice :)

Virgo (*Aug 23-Sep 22*)*
The changes in your life seem misplaced at times. Almost like there's something you should be remembering but can't quite get a hold of. Unlike recently, life may seem to be happening primarily to other people this month (especially in the meaty middle). Take time to process. You're OK!

Libra (*Sep 23-Oct 22*)*
You may find love! You may be able to express that love clearly! You may find new revelations irreconcilable with your love, new or old. You may try to reconcile them, and then fail. You may finally set your heart on something and soon find yourself living exactly the life you want. Expect introspective moods around the end of the month.

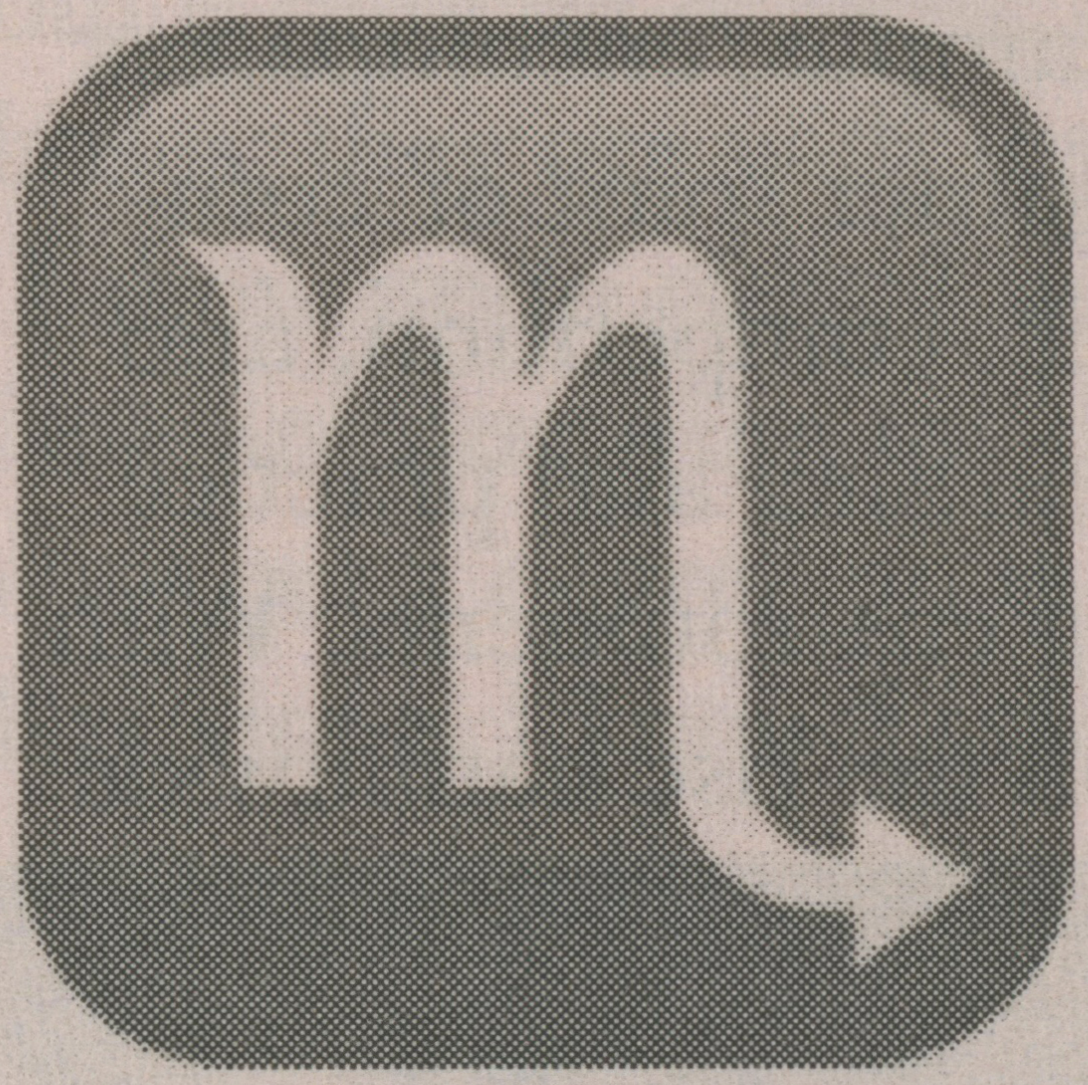
Scorpio (*Oct 23-Nov 21*)*
Your plan is coming together! Didn't you make plans, Scorpio??? If not, there's always next time around!

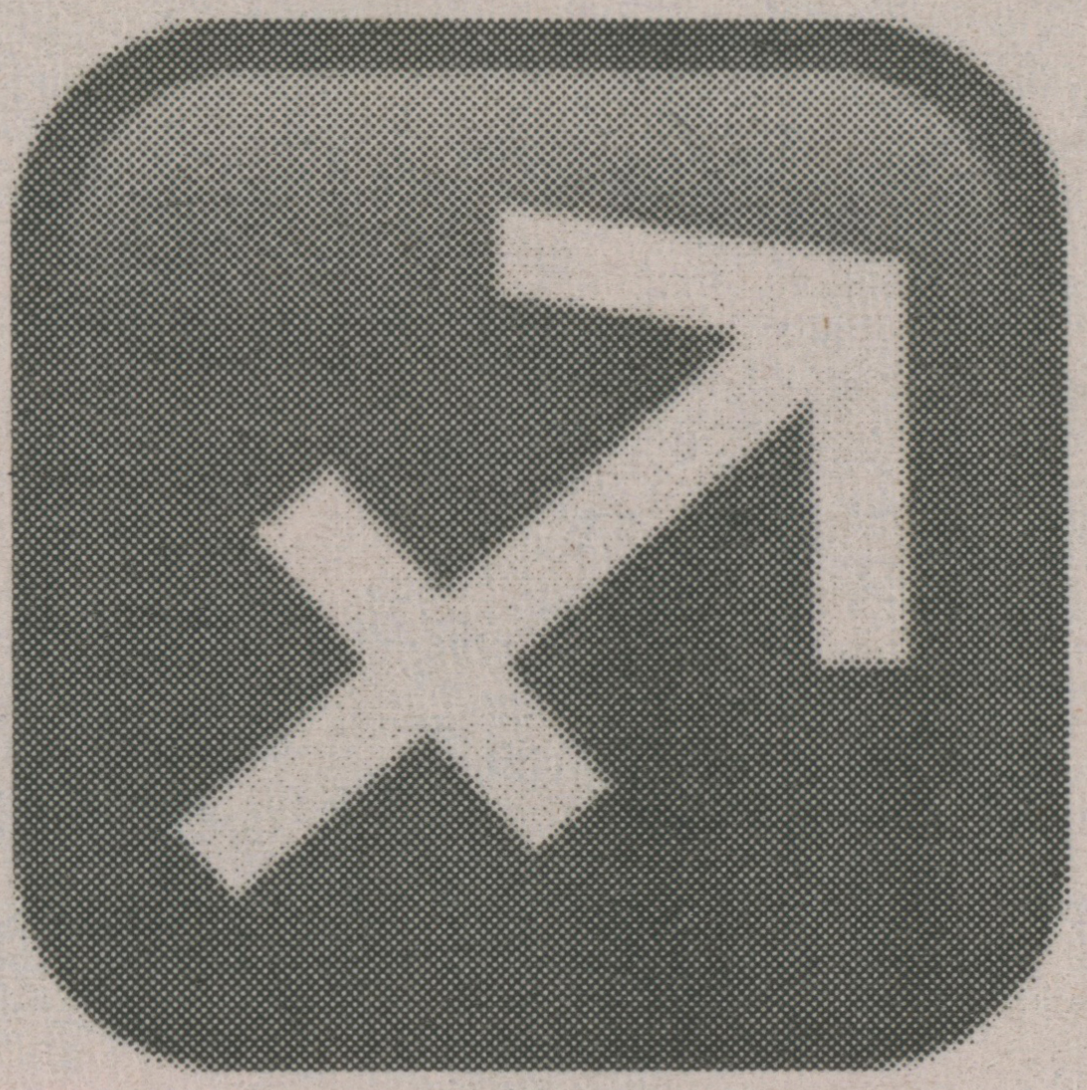
Sagittarius (*Nov 22-Dec 21*)*
The first week of September will be a good time to gain momentum. Speak up about what you want. You have a good shot! Identify your wishes that are coming true; now is your chance to shape them.

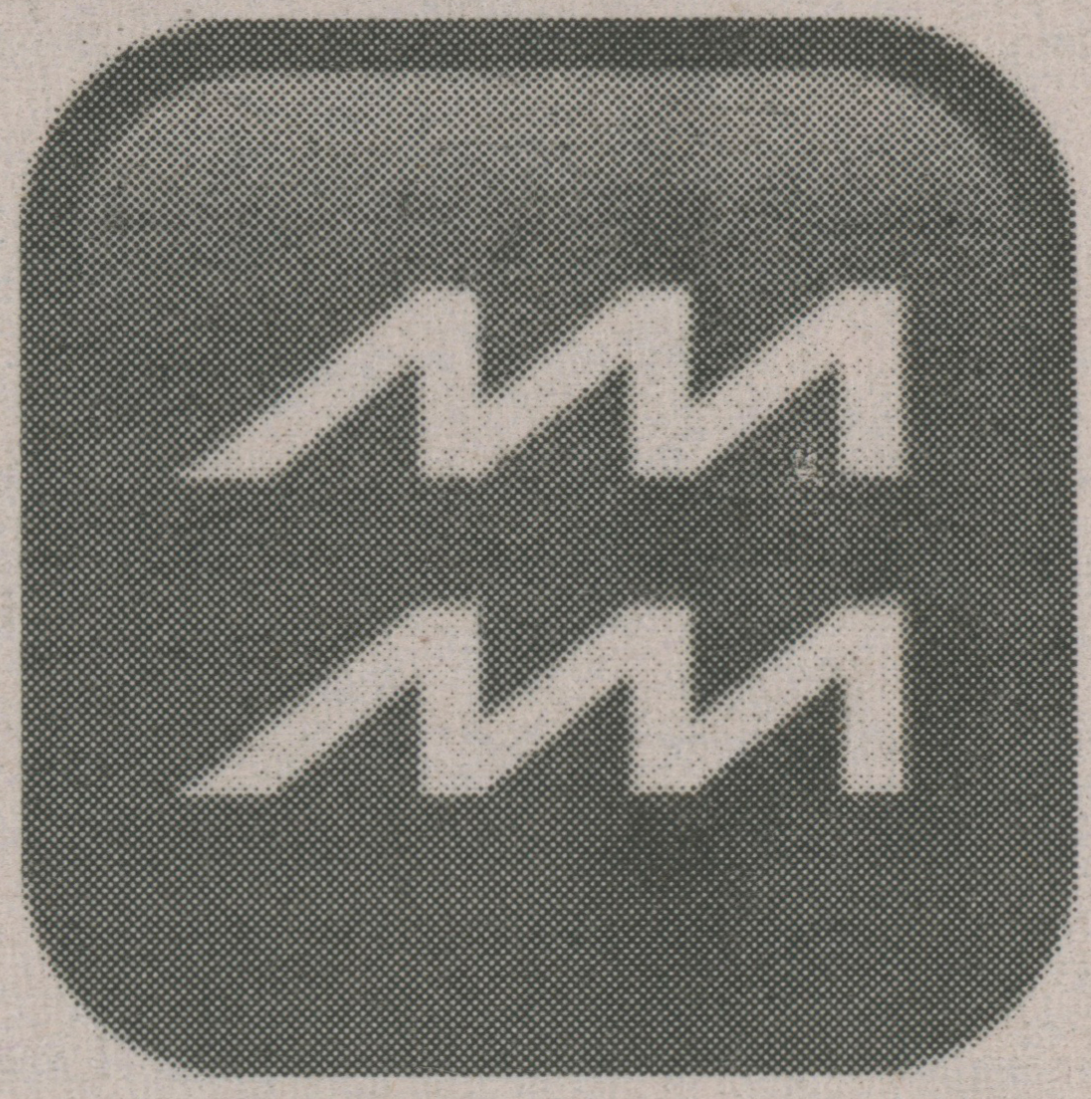
Capricorn (*Dec 22-Jan 19*)*
(especially *Jan 5-19*)
The solidity of things will no longer be up for debate. Notice where you have been called to put your energy this year. You will reap what you have sown. Have you been fighting to maintain your boundaries? Have you held strong and been honest with yourself and others? If so, your struggle is ending.

Aquarius (*Jan 20-Feb 18*)*
Aquarius! (Shouts Out! I am one of you!) anyway this month seems pretty tough. But you will make it through! Do what you have to, then take care of yourself.

Pisces (*Feb 19-Mar 20*)*
You will adapt easily! Things feel different now. They feel fresh like how the morning feels to people who like it in the morning. Can you believe those people, Pisces?







Overwatch, Fortnite, and Smash Bros! Oh My!

By: **Vivienne Miller**

Do you play video games? Want to compete alongside your fellow SU students?

Then consider joining the Golden Pirates! Our school's eSports team is the best place for you to level up and make friends.

The Golden Pirates, a club here on campus, encompasses the true gamer spirit of companionship, competition, and applied learning and practice in exciting environments. With eSports on the rise nationwide and worldwide, the Golden Pirates offer a space for serious competition for any and all students. Absent of the barriers riddled throughout mainstream university sports, like gender and athletic physical capabilities, competitors within eSports are assessed solely by their persistence, willingness to grow, and passionate drive.

With students across classes and areas of study, our eSports team has mastered the art of balancing diverse skill sets, and the fruits of these continuous efforts are attracting well-deserved attention. Last April, at the annual Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) Showdown hosted by Schreiner University, the Golden Pirates had a competitive finish, placing third in Overwatch, fourth in League of Legends, fifth in Super Smash Bros., and third in Fortnite. They finished in third place overall. You can read more about the annual conference on our school's website.

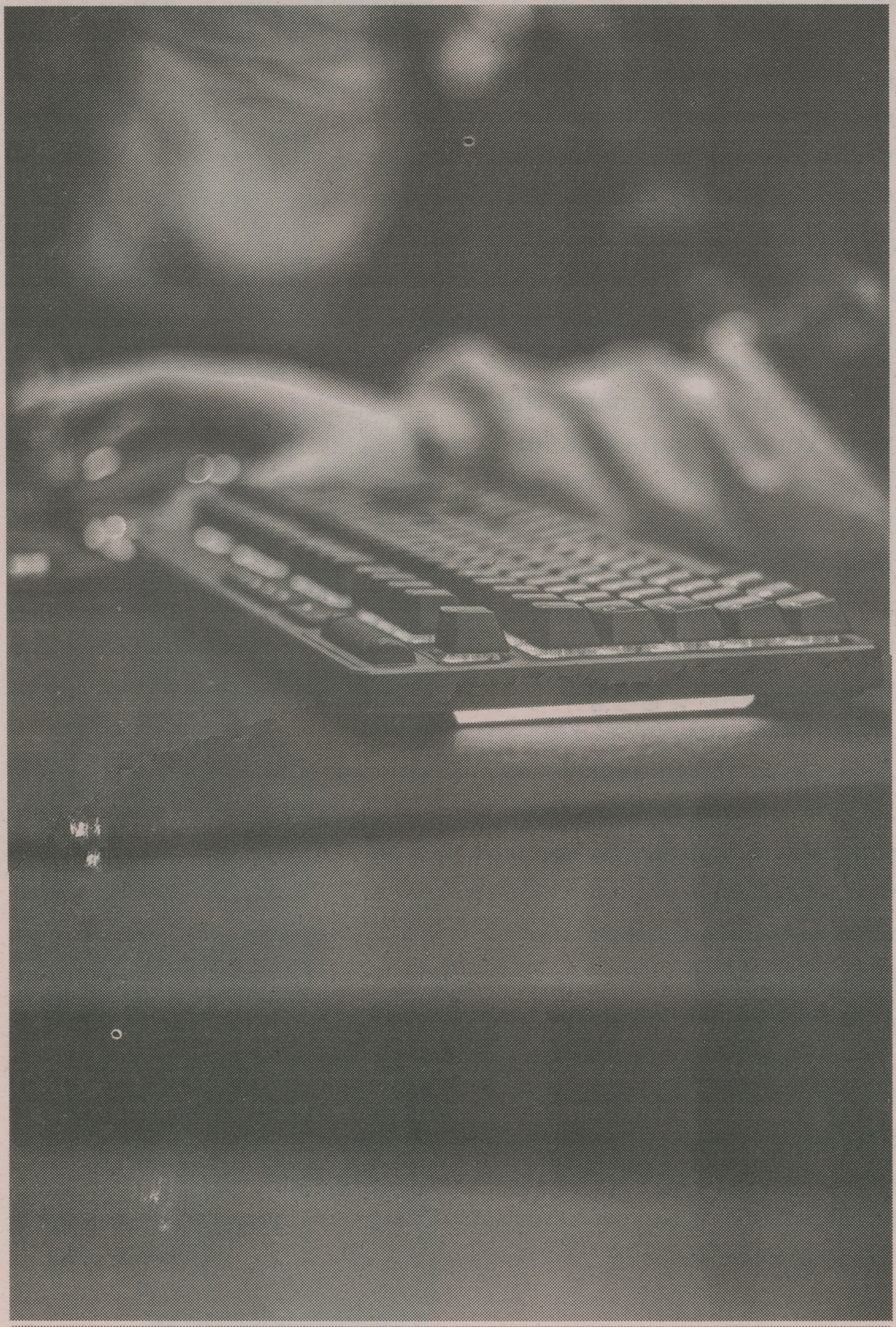


Photo courtesy of Unsplash

In universities across the country eSports have been gaining popularity and recognition, and the dedicated students who play for the Golden Pirates have decided it's time for Southwestern University to have a varsity eSports team. Currently, SU is behind the curve when it comes to eSports at the collegiate level. In schools like Colorado College, their varsity eSports team attracts potential students nationwide and players have connections with major tech and gaming companies like Riot, Epic, and Twitch. As a student club, the Golden Pirates do not have the same budget as our school's other varsity teams, and all of their endeavors thus far have been privately funded. With the status as an official collegiate varsity team, the Golden Pirates will no longer be a passion project. Instead, students will have the resources for recruiting, hiring a coach, strengthening team dynamics, and claiming more opportunities to establish connections in the professional world of tech and pro-leagues.

Daryl Tschoepe, Director of Technology Support and Services here at SU, states: "So, as a first generation gamer (I played ASCII games on an IBM System 34 at my mom's office) it was quite exciting to hear about the Golden Pirates and the growing eSports movement at Southwestern. The IT department is beginning to have discussions with various entities involved on-campus to see how we can best support this exciting new endeavor."

Derek Timourian, Associate Dean of Student Life, also had something to say about his experience with the Golden Pirates: "At this year's inaugural SCAC Showdown, the Golden Pirates, led by captain John Rodriguez, displayed outstanding sportsmanship, camaraderie and teamwork despite falling short of the team's lofty goals going into the event. The Golden Pirates, in just their second full year as a student organization, have done an excellent job of coordinating and inspiring eSports activities for SU students. I look forward to our continuing work to support this organization and I am optimistic about what the Golden Pirates can achieve in the future."

Momentum continues to build throughout modern technology, and the students at SU strive to be leaders in all fields. If you're excited about testing your skills with other players, if you love playing video games in your not-so-spare time, or if you want to begin turning your hobby into a career in pro-leagues, then join your fellow students of the Golden Pirates on their voyage into the future of worldwide competition.

Our Overwatch team is registered to compete at a tournament at UT Arlington in September.

Special thanks to Daryl Tschoepe, Derek Timourian, Joel Caballero, and the amazing players of the Golden Pirates—past, present, and future!

Interview: Advice From a Senior Athlete

Interview with Teresa Cropper, a Senior swimmer

Interviewer: **Matthew Oevermann**

The collegiate level of athletics is one of the most enduring yet rewarding experiences that an athlete can have. At this point, athletics and education both become more professional than the high school level. When attending college, student athletes voluntarily accept the burden to compete for the remainder of their educational career. One particular senior student at Southwestern, Teresa Cropper '20, has endured the sport of swimming for her entire time at this institution. Cropper has swam for Southwestern for three years and is entering the sport for her fourth and final year. Through her time as a student athlete, Cropper has dropped countless seconds on her events, and medalled at conference two years in a row. An interview was conducted, with Cropper's permission, to enquire about her experience as a senior athlete at Southwestern and to ask for her advice for the First-Year students beginning their collegiate career.

Matthew Oevermann:

How long have you been swimming?

Teresa Cropper:

I've been swimming since I was four and started swimming competitively in eighth grade.

MO:

What events/ strokes do you swim?

TC:

I primarily swim the 200 and 100 breaststroke as well as the 400 Individual Medley.

MO:

How did you find out about the swimming program at Southwestern?

TC:

I found out about Southwestern through the coaching staff who ultimately recruited me.

MO:

How do you manage your time as a college athlete and a full-time student?

TC:

Making sure to manage my time effectively. This has definitely been a struggle throughout college and is why I'm addicted to caffeine.

MO:

What were the most challenging aspects of your time as a student-athlete?

TC:

Some of my most challenging times as a student-athlete are having to forego other opportunities for swimming. For me, this has especially been the case with foregoing extra time to study, social events or exciting professional/academic opportunities.

MO:

What was your most rewarding experience as a collegiate level swimmer?

TC:

My most rewarding experience has been meeting a great network of people and being able to be on a team. Though swimming can be really tough, having a team always reminds me we are all going through it. Being on a team, you automatically have a group of people to make memories with and to be friends with throughout college.

MO:

Photo courtesy of Matthew Oevermann

What motivated you to continue swimming all four years of college?

TC:

A big thing that has kept me motivated is having a commitment to the team and not just to myself. Going back to the team atmosphere, I was motivated to be a good teammate and I would be hurting the team by withdrawing my commitment. On a swim team, every individual event adds up to a team score, and without being a part of the team, the team is losing points. Additionally, your presence and friendship with other people in the pool, and at every practice, are lost when you leave a team which can be really hard on a team atmosphere. Additionally, swimming keeps me on my feet. It is a great way to clear headspace, destress and frankly just restart. After practice, I am usually always in a great mental space to tackle my to-do list

MO:

If you could give your First-Year self a word of advice, what would that be?

TC:

Find balance! In the new environment that is the first year of college, there is so much going on. I would tell myself to focus on finding a balance between making new friends; maneuvering classes, which for me was a new version of learning, and finding downtime to reset and refocus.

MO:

What experience/ wisdom from this sport will you take with you after graduation?

TC:

There is a bunch of wisdom that this sport has given me. This includes attention to detail where milliseconds can make a monumental difference in swimming. Also, DON'T compare yourself to others! Focus on your own personal growth/ progress instead of comparing yourself to others. Lastly, getting into a routine makes life much easier.

MO:

Lastly, do you have any advice that you would like to give to First-Year athletes?

TC:

Don't be afraid to ask for help or guidance. There are so many changes that happen in your first year and coaches, professors, RA's, teammates, etc. are all there to help you succeed and to help acclimate you to this new world!

Balancing Life as a College Athlete

By: **Matthew Oevermann**

As a collegiate level athlete, finding the balance between social life, school, and athletics can be a particularly challenging feat but it's not entirely impossible. In a world where sport becomes a priority over everything it is hard to focus on the primary goal of college which includes graduation. However, at Southwestern, we are given the unique opportunity to put athletics second to education.

The liberal arts focus is primarily on providing an A+ education while also offering athletics to students who wish to compete at a college level. This unique mindset shifts the focus from an athletics to education. This ultimately allows students at Southwestern to be admitted into the institution with the understanding that education comes before sport, but doesn't deprive athletes from participating in what they enjoy.

From personal experience as a collegiate level athlete, a few qualities that aid the balance between sport and school include, but aren't limited to, time management, dedication, communication, and teamwork. These key values aid in the process of balancing the athletic realm with other realms in an athlete's life.

An essential component to balance includes time management. The ability to balance social, athletic, and an educational schedules requires a fine tuned skill. Some important tools to utilize can include, schedules, calendars, and to-do lists. These tools can aid in keeping things that need to be done in an orderly fashion to avoid chaos.

Secondly, another component includes dedication. An athlete cannot compete and be successful in a sport if they are competing halfheartedly. An athlete must be competing in a sport they enjoy and can continually train for without becoming distant or withdrawn. A major component of athletics is not the competition itself, but the practices and training that lead up to the event. If an athlete is able to maintain consistent practices and wholeheartedly give it their all, then they will be able to be successful in the sport.

A third component includes communication. There are two different sides to this concept. One including communication as a fundamental tool to deliver information to fellow teammates. Another useful side of communication includes asking for help. If an athlete has a concern or is struggling to maintain certain standards, then the best case scenario is to reach out for assistance.

Lastly the concept of teamwork has an important role in keeping the balance. If a team does not work together, as childish as it sounds, then the entire group is not able to function cohesively. Another unique part of being on a team is that teammates are able to hold each other accountable for certain aspects of their lives. This is helpful in balancing social spheres to where teammates can help each other in different aspects outside of their own respective sport.

Although these four components are essential, they are not all that aid in balancing life. There are many other concepts that are applicable to this theme, yet these are the few that seem the most relevant. Maintaining the balance in an athlete's life is completely individualized to that athlete. There are many sports and extracurriculars offered at Southwestern, hopefully these concepts can be a foundation for an athlete to balance their own respective schedules.

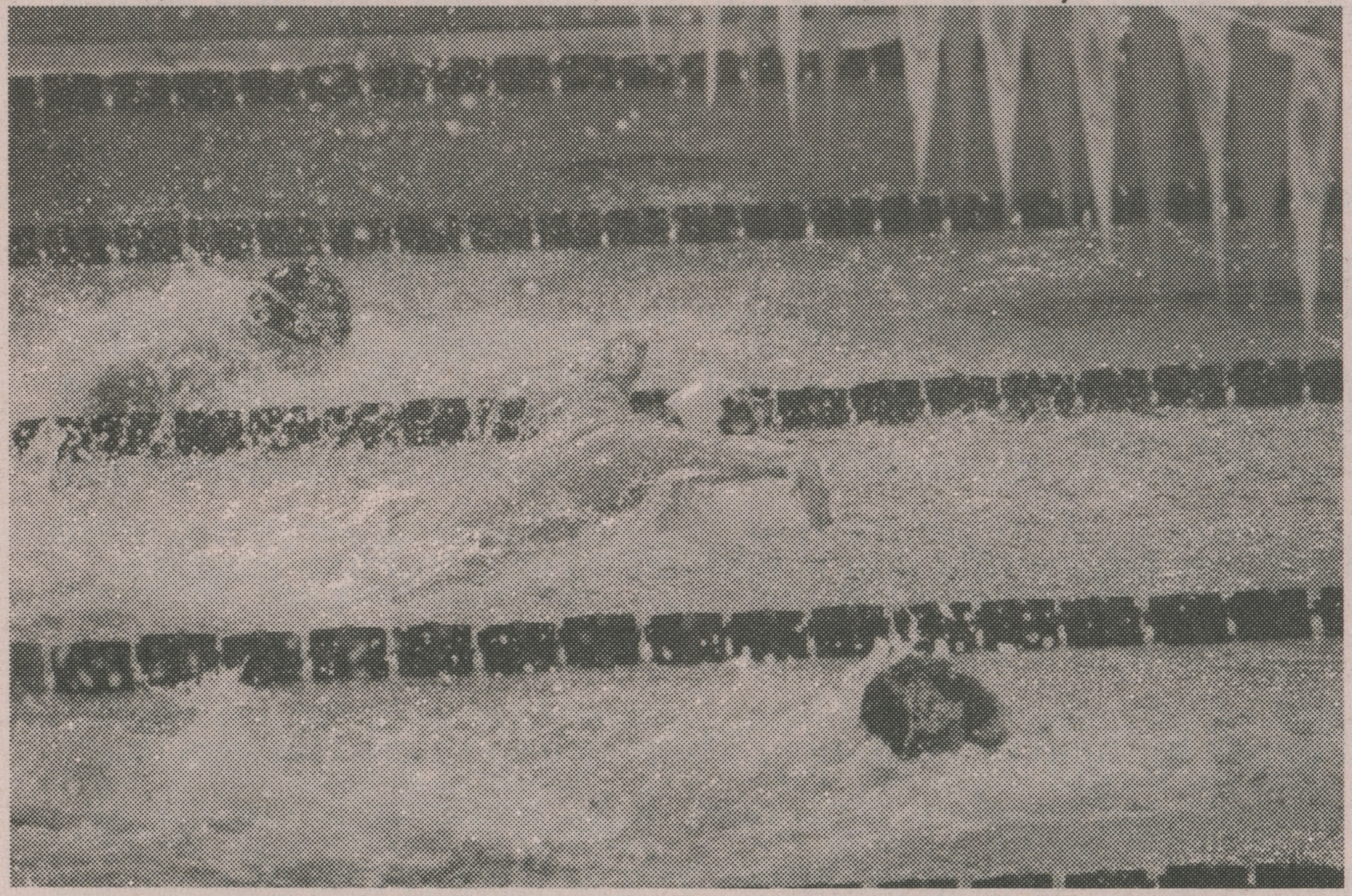


Photo courtesy of Matthew Oevermann

2019 Fall Sports Schedule

This list includes only home events. To see a full list of events, visit our website at megaphone.southwestern.edu or the official athletics page at southwesternpirates.com.

Football

Sat., Sep. 21 vs. Louisiana College @6:00pm*
Sat., Oct. 05 vs. Sul Ross State @1:00pm*
Sat., Oct. 19 vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor @1:00pm*
Sat., Nov. 02 vs. East Texas Baptist @1:00pm*
Sat., Nov. 09 vs. Howard Payne @1:00pm*

Basketball

Women's Schedule
Thu., Nov. 21 vs. Concordia Texas @5:30pm
Tue., Nov. 26 vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor @5:30pm
Sun., Dec. 29 vs. Schreiner @TBA*
Mon., Dec. 30 vs. Trinity @TBA*
Men's Schedule
Thu., Nov. 21 vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor @TBA
Sat., Dec. 07 vs. Howard Payne @TBA
Wed., Dec. 18 vs. Hardin-Simmons @6:00pm
Sun., Dec. 29 vs. Schreiner @TBA*
Mon., Dec. 30 vs. Trinity @TBA*

Volleyball

Fri., Aug. 23 vs. Angelo St. @1:30pm
Fri., Aug. 23 vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor @4:30pm
Sat., Aug. 24 Alumni Game @5:00pm
Fri., Aug. 30 vs. Hardin-Simmons @12:30pm
Fri., Aug. 30 vs. Whittier @7:30pm
Sat., Aug. 31 vs. Carthage @12:30pm
Sat., Aug. 31 vs. Whitworth @5:30pm
Sat., Sep. 14 vs. Concordia Texas @2:00pm
Mon., Sep. 16 vs. East Texas Baptist @6:00pm
Wed., Sep 25 vs. Our Lady of the Lake @6:00pm
Tue., Oct. 01 vs. Texas Lutheran @6:00pm*

Soccer

Women's Schedule
Sat., Aug. 24 vs. St. Edwards @7:00pm
Fri., Aug. 30 vs. Sul Ross State @6:00pm
Sun., Sep. 01 vs. St. Thomas @12:00pm*
Sat., Sep. 07 vs. East Texas Baptist @ 7:30pm
Fri., Sep. 13 vs. Texas Lutheran @6:00pm*
Tues., Sep. 17 vs. Huston-Tillotson @7:00pm
Fri., Sep. 20 vs. JWU @6:00pm*
Sun., Sep. 22 vs. McMurry @2:00pm
Sun., Oct. 06 vs. Austin College @12:00pm*
Fri., Oct. 18 vs. Trinity @6:00pm*

Soccer (continued)

Men's Schedule
Fri., Aug., 30 vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor @8:00pm
Sun., Sep. 01 vs. Concordia Texas @8:00pm
Sun., Sep. 08 vs. East Texas Baptist @3:00pm
Fri., Sep. 13 vs. Texas Lutheran @7:00pm*
Fri., Sep. 20 vs. JWU @7:00pm*
Sun., Sep. 22 vs. Colorado College @12:00pm*
Tue., Sep. 24 vs. Club Team @9:00am
Fri., Oct. 04 vs. Dallas @7:00pm*
Sun., Oct. 06 vs. Austin College @2:00pm*
Fri., Oct. 18 vs. Trinity @8:00pm*
Sun., Oct. 20 vs. Schreiner @2:00pm*

Swimming and Diving

Fri., Oct. 04 Intersquad Meet @6:00pm

Cross Country

Fri., Oct. 11 @Pirate Invitational @8:00am

Tennis

Women's Schedule
Fri.-Sat., Sep. 13-14 SU Quad @TBA
Men's Schedule
Thu.-Sun., Sep. 26-29 @ITA Regional @TBA

The DL on Student Activities

By: **Natalie Young**

This week, I interviewed the Assistant Director of Student Activities, Oliver Agger-Shelton, about his experiences working in this office for about a year now. He was very enthusiastic about the interview, and we're excited to have him back again this year.

"My favorite part about this job is the people. Having the opportunity to work with so many wonderful students, particularly those on our student staff, is the reason I gravitated towards a career in Student Affairs in the first place. Not only that, but the professional staff that I am surrounded by is incredibly talented and the support I receive makes me feel like I belong in this community."

I emailed Oliver when we began to finish up articles for this first issue and I was very lucky that he found time to email me back during the very busy Welcome Week. We are lucky to have such dedicated staff members working with us at Southwestern. As Oilver mentioned that it would not be surprising to see them here at 10:00 P.M. on a Friday night!

When asked, Oliver said that he was excited for more students to get involved in the Class Act program. During Which students are given Student Activities funding to create their own school-wide or class-wide event. "So far, we've had a Winter Formal and Skate Night, and I'm looking forward to what event comes next!"

This fall, keep an eye out for Black Light Dodgeball to Step N' Stroll, to Casino Night! Oliver himself is particularly excited for Pirate Parrrty, which is happening on Friday, September 6th on the Academic Lawn.

"Student Activities is all about finding your place at Southwestern. We support over 100 student organizations so that you have the opportunity to explore new opportunities as well as meet other students who share your interests. Not only that, but we understand that academics can be difficult, which is why we provide programming to give students an opportunity to destress with their friends and peers."

If you're interested in joining Student Activities you should join us at the Student Involvement Fair on Wednesday, September 4th where most clubs and organizations will be looking for new members. The Fair will be at 5:00 P.M. on the Walzel Courts and if you see Oliver, don't be shy about saying hello!

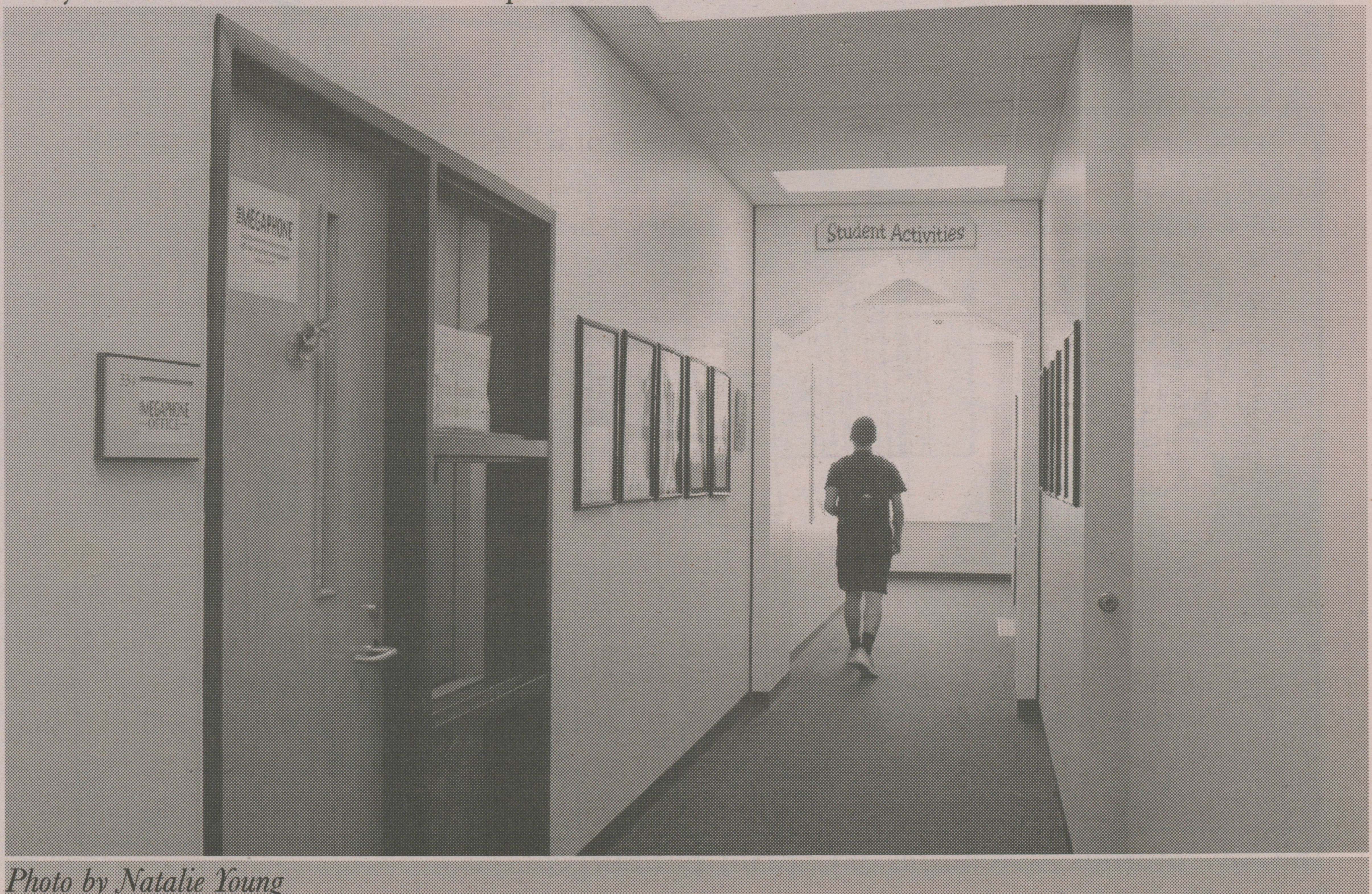


Photo by Natalie Young

Check Us Out Online!

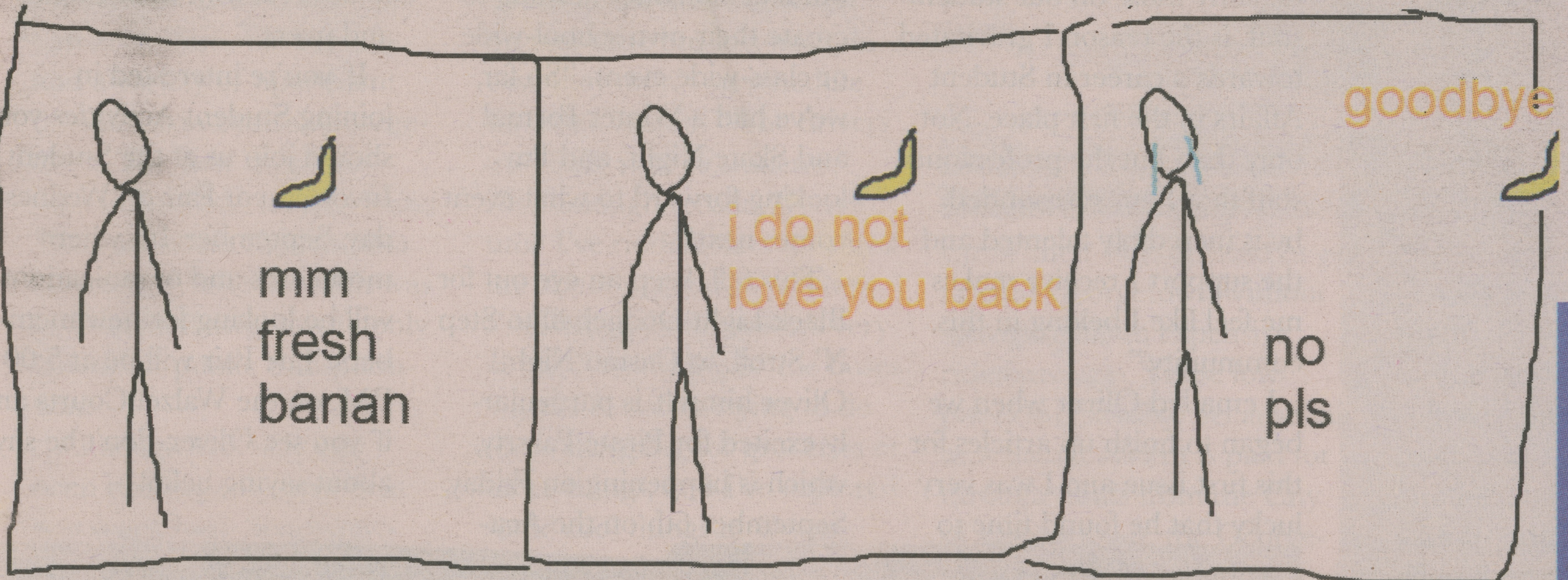
Website:
megaphone.southwestern.edu

Insta: @su_megaphone
Twitter: @SU_Megaphone

and on the SU app!

Are you interested in writing or taking photos for the Megaphone?

Meetings are every Thursday at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Floor of the McCombs Campus Center

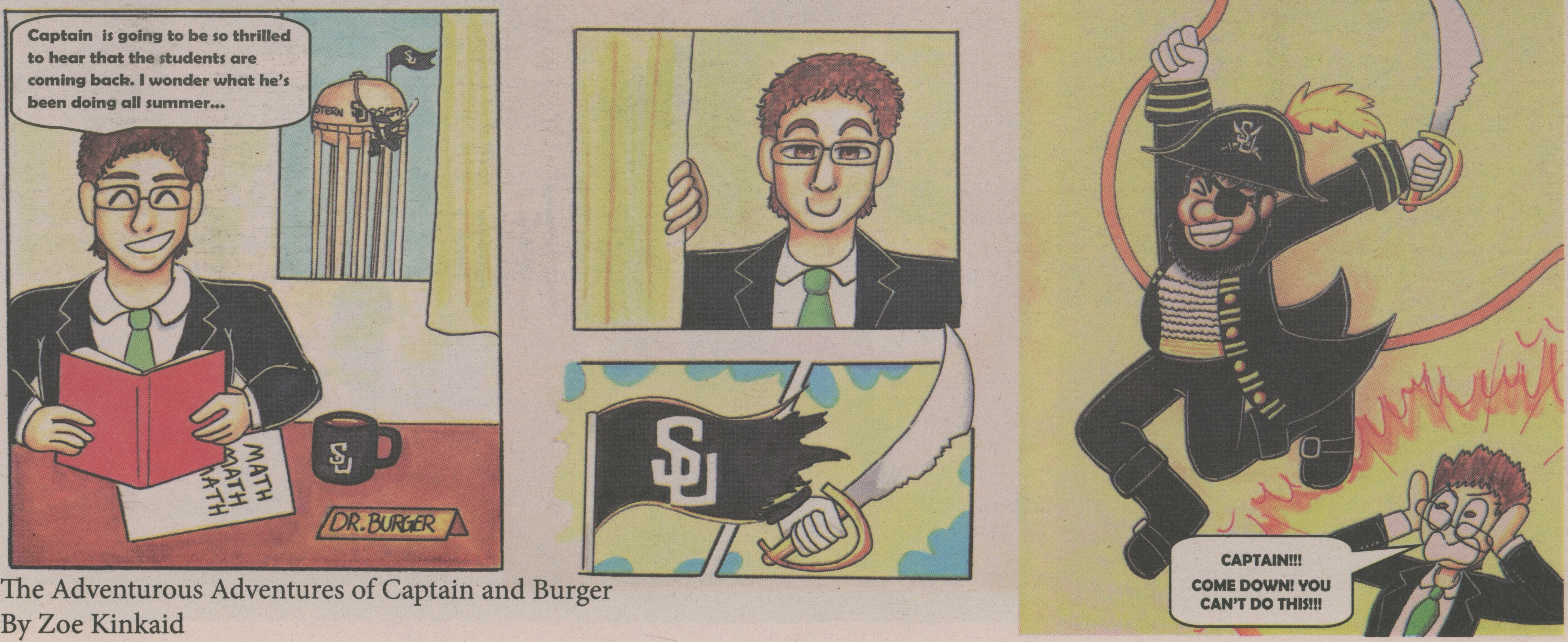

mm
fresh
banan
i do not
love you back
goodbye
no
pls

welcome back to good comic by alice

Hugs and Kisses xo,
The Megaphone Staff

If u have any
ideas or
suggestions

Keep an eye out for coupons in future issues of the Megaphone


Captain is going to be so thrilled to hear that the students are coming back. I wonder what he's been doing all summer...
MATH
MATH
MATH
DR. BURGER
CAPTAIN!!! COME DOWN! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!!!

The Adventurous Adventures of Captain and Burger
By Zoe Kinkaid